

REMARKS

The first line of the specification has been amended to include a specific reference to the application from which this Application claims benefit. Although the benefit claim was not previously included in the first line of the specification, it was included in the transmittal filed with the Application. Therefore, the claim for priority was timely made. A copy of the transmittal is attached in APPENDIX A. In addition, the benefit claim was recognized by the Patent and Trademark Office (the "Office"), as shown by its inclusion on the Filing Receipt. A copy of the Filing Receipt is attached in APPENDIX B.

MPEP §201.11 (V) (Rev. 1, Feb. 2003) states:

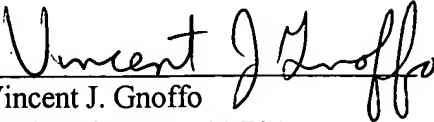
"If an applicant includes a claim to the benefit of a prior application elsewhere in the application but not in the manner specified in 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(i) and (a)(2)(iii) or 37 CFR 1.78(a)(5)(i) and (a)(5)(iii) (e.g., if the benefit claim is included in an unexecuted oath or declaration or the application transmittal letter) within the time period set forth in 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(ii) or (a)(5)(ii), the Office will not require a petition and the surcharge under 37 CFR 1.17(t) to correct the benefit claim if the information concerning the benefit claim contained elsewhere in the application was recognized by the Office as shown by its inclusion on a filing receipt." [emphasis added].

Therefore, because the benefit claim was included in the transmittal filed with the Application, shown in APPENDIX A, and was recognized by the Office as indicated by the Filing Receipt, shown in APPENDIX B, it is respectfully requested that this amendment be entered.

SUMMARY

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorneys for the Applicant via telephone if such communication would expedite this application.

Respectfully submitted,


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